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MONTANA FARM LABOR REPORT

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PREPARED BY FARM LABOR SECTION
OF THE MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

JESS C. FLETCHER, DIRECTOR

A DIVISION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA:

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GEORGE A. MORRISON, COMMISSIONER

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PART 1 ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

PLANNING

A. No changes were made in administrative organization. The O and M "Plans of Action" are prepared by each local office on a quarterly basis thereby enabling each office to prepare pre-season plans thirty days prior to the seasonal farm activities.

B. Pre-season and In-season Meetings - State and local farm placement personnel participated in growers and processors pre-season meetings.

Farm placement personnel continued to work throughout the year with County and State Extension Services, Montana State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committees and local farm organizations.

C. Orders for sugar beet workers were placed in clearance with the state of Texas. In accordance with an agreement of several years, the Colorado Agency recruited workers in Texas for the Holly Sugar Corporation.

A special program for youths was used in the sugar beet activity. Three crews of 20 high school youths each were organized with the cooperation of the school officials in three communities. The program was successful and it is anticipated that during 1962 it will be extended to all communities where sugar beets are raised.

Indians from nearby reservations were recruited for the sweet corn and potato harvests.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

A severe drought severely damaged the agricultural economy over most of the eastern two-thirds of the State. Dryland small grains, hay, rangeland, stockwater and livestock were the most severely affected.

The season opened up in April with extreme moisture shortages causing concern among farmers and ranchers east of the Continental Divide. Some farmers in the drier eastern localities delayed seeding operations because of moisture deficiencies. Hot weather and rapidly growing crops quickly reduced soil moisture supplies east of the mountains. Grasshoppers severely damaged crops and range land in several eastern counties.

Hot, dry weather forced maturity and was ideal for a rapid harvest. The winter wheat harvest started two weeks earlier than normal and was out of the fields by the middle of August and most of the other grain and hay crops by the end of the month. Due to the light yield and rapid harvest, there were no demands for out-of-state men or machines.

Range grass grew slowly. Stockwater and range feed was short in many areas east of the mountains. Marketing of livestock became heavy in eastern counties. This heavy movement of livestock reduced regular year-around employment and the demand for winter feeders.

The long hot weather was favorable for growing irrigated crops such as sugar beets, corn, alfalfa, potatoes and small grains. The employment trend held to normal in these areas during the growing and harvesting season.

The number of farm units declined from 33,061 in 1954 to an estimated 28,959 in 1961 for a 12.4% decrease. The size of the farm units rose from an average of 1,859.3 acres to an estimated 2,212.8 acres in 1961 for an increase of 19.0%. Since Montana is primarily a wheat growing state, most of the increase in acreage has been wheat farms. This has resulted in the use of larger mechanical equipment for soil preparation, seeding and summer fallowing, thereby reducing the time necessary for this operation but also the number of units used and consequently reducing the number of workers needed for these activities. This has resulted in a decrease in workers of approximately 14.0% since 1954.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

A. Seasonal Hired Workers --

Due to the severe drought there was a sharp decline in the number of seasonal workers employed. The largest decline was in wheat, other small grains and dryland hay harvests. However, the hot dry weather was ideal for irrigated crops and the demand for irrigators was extended several weeks longer than normal. The weather also permitted the thinning and hoeing of sugar beets to proceed without interruptions and therefore reduced the number of seasonal workers needed for this activity.

Local labor is generally male, Caucasian and operate farm machinery such as tractors, hay balers, trucks, and small grain combines. They also perform non-ag work such as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers and construction labor.

Females of Caucasian's race work as ranch couples or singly as ranch cooks. Non-ag employment is generally as cook in a cafe or domestic work. In western Montana, housewives work in the small fruit and berry harvest.

High school youths of both sexes are recruited to hoe and thin sugar beets.

Approximately 7,500 interstate male workers are employed in agricultural activities of small grains, haying and livestock activities. They are of the Caucasian race, single or unattached. The workers are from California, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. They also perform non-ag activities such as truck drivers and construction labor.

Approximately 2,500 interstate workers are employed in the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets. These workers are primarily family groups and both sexes, fourteen years and older, work. Their main occupation is that of vegetable farm hand labor. The majority of these workers are from Texas and are of Mexican descent. A few of these workers are from Arizona and Nevada.

Approximately 2,300 male, single or unattached workers are from Mexico. Their occupation is farm hand labor, sugar beet.

The most significant shortages of seasonal farm workers were in the thinning and hoeing of sugar beets. Mexican Nationals were used to supplement domestic workers. Domestic workers who are available for this activity are from the state of Texas. Due to the excessive travel necessary to reach certain areas in Montana and also the distance to subsequent jobs, Montana is unable to recruit sufficient domestic workers.

There were not any significant surpluses of seasonal farm workers. Due to the drought, the influx of workers from the midwest for the wheat harvest was well below normal.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers --

The livestock and dryland small grain activities are the major crops that employ regular hired farm workers. The general trend of employment has been slightly below normal the past few years. This trend was sharply accented during 1961. Due to the severe drought during 1961 livestock owners were forced to reduce their herds of cattle and sheep, thereby decreasing the need for workers.

Although feed-lots are increasing in number, many are being converted to mechanical feeding thereby decreasing their need for workers.

Dryland small grain farms have doubled in size during the last decade. As a result farm operators are using larger mechanical equipment for their various activities reducing the number of workers needed.

The skill needed to operate and maintain this equipment is similar to that of a heavy equipment operator.

IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS

METHODS

A. Sugar beets are the main crop that has been mechanized to any significant degree in recent years. The harvest is about 100% mechanized and thinning 40%. Considerable care in the planting of the seeds is important for the subsequent use of mechanical thinners. Seeds of the monogerm type must be placed in the ground at a pre-determined depth and intervals of spacing. The size of the beet seed and cells of the plate in the planter must match. The equipment is simple in construction and does not require specialized knowledge to repair.

In recent years, wheat farms have been reduced in number but doubled in size. This has resulted in the use of larger mechanical equipment for soil preparation, seeding, and summer fallowing and, consequently caused a reduction in the man-hours of work for these activities. The hay pick-up baler and loader has become widely used in most areas of Montana.

There were not any changes in labor requirements resulting from mechanization during the current or preceding year.

It is anticipated in the near future that the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets will be eliminated.

Through the use of the monogerm seed, space planting could eventually become a reality and further developments in the use of herbicides for positive weed control would eliminate any need for hand labor. The workers affected would be the domestic migrants composed of family groups of all ages and sexes. It would also eliminate the need for any Mexican Nationals. Local youth would also be affected.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers --

Regular farm workers are affected to the extend that employers expect them to be skilled in operating the larger tractors and other machinery used in seeding, cultivating, spraying and harvesting, but they must also have the skills necessary to maintain and repair this equipment. While most regular workers have these skills, it does require that the new entrant into this work possess higher mechanical skills.

RECRUITMENT OF FARM WORKERS

RECRUITMENT OF FARM WORKERS

A. Local offices utilized radio, TV and newspaper publicity in order to utilize the maximum of the local supply of seasonal farm workers. The response from the publicity was excellent.

Three local offices conducted school registrations to recruit youth for work in sugar beets. In each instance, the quota was exceeded. During 1962, this technique and program will be expanded to six more local offices.

Volunteer farm representatives were used in each local office area. If possible, the VFP made placements from local sources or promptly transmitted all unfilled orders to the local office for action. Farmers and ranchers were advised of their local VFP through local newspapers, radio, posters, and by direct promotional mail from the local offices. While all VFP are not 100% effective, it is planned to continue this activity in 1962.

The local labor supply was not sufficient to meet the demand for regular hired farm workers. Inter-office clearance was used for agricultural specialists such as herdsman, ranch foreman, ranch couples, ranch cooks and high mountain sheepherders.

B. Montana participates in the Annual Worker Plan. As an order holding State, Montana received 309 scheduled crews and family heads including 2,178 workers. On the basis of actual contacts with the crew and examination of the ES-369, the services rendered are reflected in Table 4 of this report.

D. 1. Housing --

One-hundred and ninety-two housing inspections were made. These cannot, however, be directly related to interstate recruitment. This is due to the fact that when inspections are made prior to occupancy and until domestic recruitment is completed it is not possible to determine whether housing will be occupied by domestic families or groups of single foreign workers. All housing is basically family type, on farm, necessitating a dual determination of suitability.

All agency inspections are made as a part of the regular program of field visiting. About 1,300 housing units are occupied at some time during the eight week period that migratory labor is employed in large numbers.

State housing regulations are under administration of the State Board of Health, Division of Environmental Sanitation. That agency limits participation in inspection, but the department is ready to investigate complaints and does test water sources.

No difficulties have been encountered in arranging cooperation. There has not been any instance when, after attempts to secure improvement of unsatisfactory housing by other means, the State Board of Health has not taken appropriate action.

2. Wages --

Eight wage field surveys were made. Domestic migrant workers are recruited for spring beet work. Minimum wage rates per acre are fixed by public hearing. Since there is no comparable activity before or during the period of recruitment field surveys were made during the working period.

The wage rate per acre system of remuneration causes wage survey difficulties above those found in most piece rate surveys, as the unit is so large and exact measurements of short period production is unfeasible. Therefore, field surveys were supplemented by examination of payroll records of growers and local office orders.

E. Foreign Workers --

Mexican National workers were brought in to supplement domestic workers in the thinning and hoeing of sugar beets only. Most of the Mexican Nationals were used between May 15 and June 30. Their peak employment was on June 15.

There were no organizational, administrative, and procedural changes or special programs developed with respect to the use of Mexican Nationals. No problems were encountered.

In the pre-season process of surveying the expected supply and demand for seasonal farm labor, each local office considers trends in productions, employment, the labor market, mechanization, and other factors expected to influence the requirements and supply of labor. Local office

records such as agricultural orders, ES-223 In-Season Farm Labor Reports and other records are utilized. Contacts are made with grower associations, processors, county agents and other government agencies interested in agriculture.

Eight wage surveys were made. The surveys were made in the field while the work was being performed. Wage rates paid Mexican contract nationals were not included in survey data. Local offices posted "Notices of Prevailing Wage Rates" at post offices and other public places in the area of jurisdiction where foreign workers were employed.

In all instances, the wage survey findings equaled or exceeded the USDA rate of fair and reasonable wages.

AREA REDEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Lake and Ravalli counties have been designated as rural redevelopment areas under the Area Redevelopment Act during the calendar year 1961. The Montana Employment Service assisted the Lake County Development Council and the Flathead Indian Reservation in developing an Overall Economic Development Plan. With slight modifications, the plan is expected to be approved early in 1962. The 1962 plans for the Montana Agency includes participation in special surveys of under-employment and unemployment in rural areas as well as providing the routine employment data to be used in economic plans for rural development.

There were not any problems related to housing, transportation, wages, health and medical facilities or food which have interferred with recruitment and placement of local or migratory workers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

State and local office personnel participate in farm organization meetings, Chamber of Commerce, civic groups, and public schools to strengthen public understanding of the agency's Farm Placement Program. Generally the method is round-table or informal discussion from the floor.

Newspaper, radio and TV are used to disseminate farm labor market information. All local offices regularly prepare news releases designed for listener and reader appeal.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The placement totals dropped from the preceding year due to the severe drought which reduced the demand for workers in the eastern two-thirds of the State, particularly in the activities of livestock and grain farming.

Expansion of the "Youth in Sugar Beets Program" in all sugar beet growing areas should reduce the supplemental use of foreign labor in this activity by a substantial amount.

Every effort will be used to fully utilize local sources of labor, particularly in counties designated for rural development under the Area Redevelopment Act.

PART 2

AREA OUTLOOK

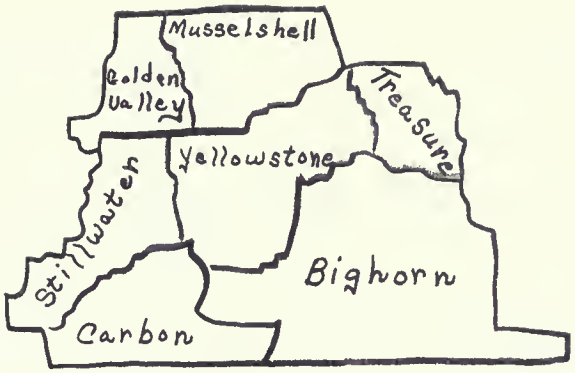
AREA 9-27.01
Western Fruit & Sugar Beet

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27.01, Western Fruit and Sugar Beets. (Flathead, Lake, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater and Meagher Counties).

The farm labor market outlook for the coming year will have approximately the same demand and supply for labor as during the calendar year 1961. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities except sugar beet thinning and hoeing. A small increase of 500 acres is anticipated in the sugar beet acreage. Youth crews will be utilized to supplement the local and migratory workers in this activity.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Soil preparation & Seeding	April - May
Sugar Beet Thinning, Hoeing & Weeding	May - August
Haying	June - September
Irrigating	May - August
Small Fruit Harvest	July - August
Small Grain Harvest	August
Potato Harvest	September
Sugar Beet Harvest	September - October
Livestock Seasonal Activities	January - December



AREA 9-27.02
Southern Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27.02, Southern Sugar Beet (Counties of Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, Carbon and Big Horn).

The farm labor demand in the area will depend on whether or not the severe drought of 1961 will be broken. At the present time, there is a 50-50 chance that this will come about. This will effect an increased demand for labor in the dryland activities of small grain, hay and livestock. The demand and supply will approximate the year 1961.

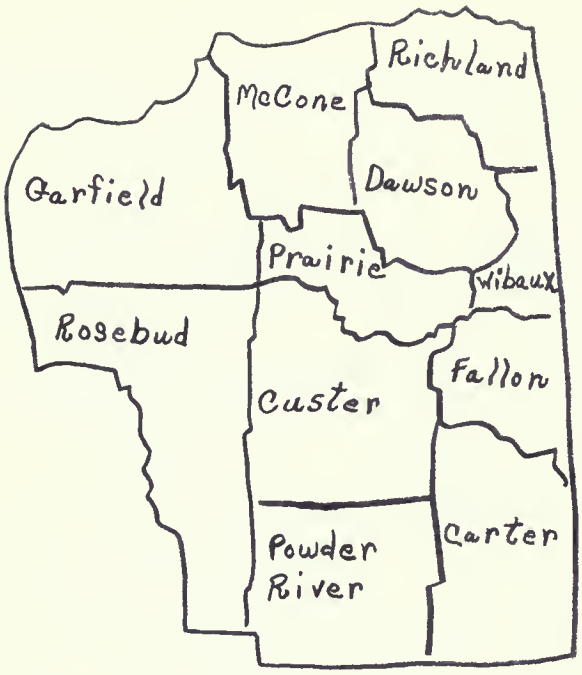
The supply and demand for labor in the irrigated activities will be approximately the same as last year. Local and migratory labor is expected to meet demands in all activities except sugar beets. A portion of the demand will be met through the use of youth groups in the thinning, hoeing and weeding of sugar beets.

Migrant domestic workers will be available for other States following the completion of thinning and hoeing of sugar beets in July.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring Soil Preparation & Seeding	April - May
Sugar Beet Thinning, Hoeing & Weeding	May 15 - July 31
Haying	June - August

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Irrigation	June - September
Fallowing	May - August
Small Grain Harvest	July - August
Sweet Corn Harvest	August 15 - September 15
Field Corn Harvest	August
Sugar Beet Harvest	September - October
Livestock Seasonal Activities	January - December



AREA 9-27.03
Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27.03, Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain. (Counties of Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Power River and Carter.)

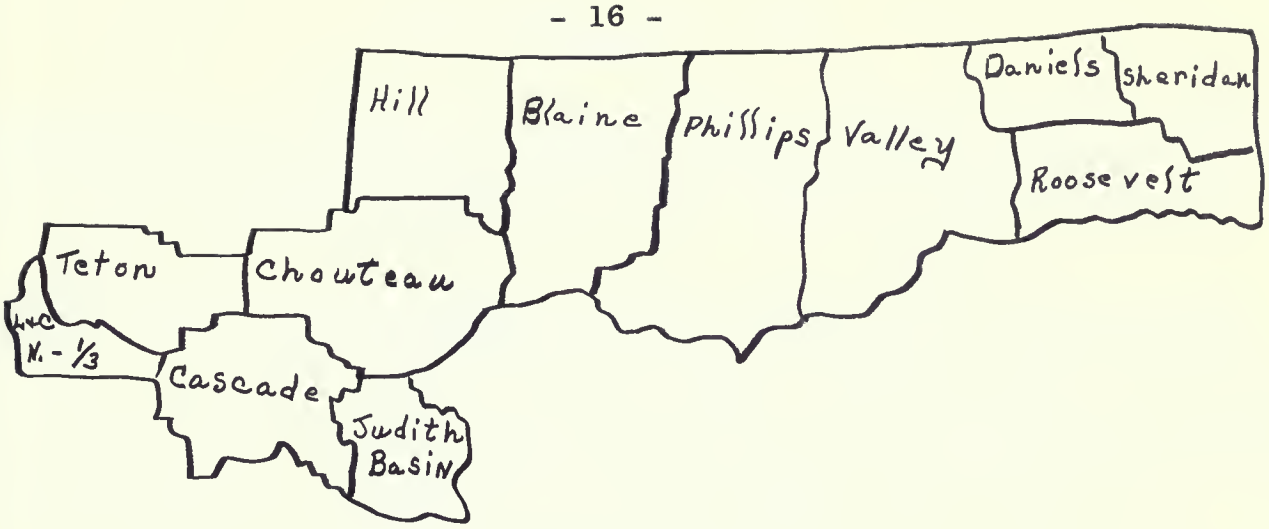
If sufficient moisture is received during the winter and spring to break the severe drought conditions, labor demand in the livestock and grain farming should increase.

In the irrigated areas, there is little anticipated changes. There will be a slight increase in sugar beet acreage. Demands for workers are met through regular clearance procedures. It is planned to supplement this labor with local youths and there will probably be no need for foreign labor. The domestic migrants will be available for other States when the thinning and hoeing of sugar beets is completed in July.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring Soil Preparation & Seeding	April - May
Sugar Beet Thinning, Hoeing & Weeding	May - August
Haying	June - August

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Irrigation	June - August
Fallowing	May - August
Small Grain Harvest	July - August
Corn Harvest	August
Livestock Seasonal Activities	January - December



AREA 9-27.04
Triangle and Highline Hardwheat

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-27.04, Triangle and Highline Hardwheat. (Counties of Teton, Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt and Sheridan.)

This area is primarily a dryland wheat growing and livestock area. If sufficient moisture is received to break the severe drought, there should be a sharp increase in labor demand for these activities. It is anticipated that local workers and voluntary in-migration of interstate workers will satisfy all demand for these activities.

It appears that the sugar beet acreage and the demand for labor will be the same as 1961.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring Soil Preparation & Seeding	April - May
Sugar Beet Thinning & Hoeing	May - June
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - August
Small Grain Harvest	July - August
Fallowing	May - September
Sugar Beet Harvest	October
Livestock Seasonal Activities	January - December

CROP PRODUCTION - 1961
MONTANA

POOR CROP YEAR - The aggregate crop harvest in Montana in 1961 totaled 6.4 million tons. This was 18 percent below the 1960 production and 16 percent under average. Crops were harvested from 7,594,000 acres in 1961 as compared with 8,477,000 acres in 1960 and 1950-59 average of 8,960,000 acres.

SMALLEST WHEAT CROP SINCE 1940 - Montana's 1961 all wheat production totaled 54.0 million bushels, the lowest in 21 years. This was due primarily to smaller acreage and unfavorable conditions for hard spring (bread) wheat. Output of hard spring wheat was the lowest since 1936. This was from the smallest acreage harvested since 1919 and the poorest yield since 1937. Although the second largest acreage of winter wheat was cut, production dipped to the lowest point since 1956. Durum acreage and production was also much below average.

LOWEST BARLEY YIELD SINCE 1936 - Output of barley at 26.4 million bushels was the lowest since 1954, and yield, at 18 bushels per acre, is the poorest since 1936. Harvested acreage, while considerably over average, was the smallest since 1956. Acres harvested and production of oats for grain were both the lowest since 1937.

GOOD RYE CROP - The harvested acreage of rye was the largest since 1946. This, together with a record yield, resulted in the biggest rye crop since 1928. Acreage and production of flaxseed was the smallest since estimates were started in 1902.

RECORD SUGAR BEET CROP - Sugar beet acreage is the largest since 1947. This, together with a very good yield, resulted in record production of sugar beets. The largest per acre yield of potatoes on record resulted in the greatest potato output since 1950. An excellent yield of dry beans placed this crop at its highest production level since 1954.

SEED PRODUCTION OFF - Mustard seed production totaled 17.1 million pounds from 54,000 acres. This compares with 22.4 million pounds in 1960 harvested from 87,300 acres. The 10-year average for mustard is 33,500 harvested acres and 18.0 million pounds of seed. Alfalfa seed output totaled 3.2 million pounds, as against 5.3 million pounds in 1960 and the average of 6.4 million pounds. Red clover seed production of 264,000 pounds was the same as last year, but compares with the 1950-59 average of 578,000 pounds. Crested wheat-grass output of 300,000 pounds, the lowest since 1956, compares with 675,000 pounds in 1960 and the average of 809,000 pounds.

LESS HAY PRODUCED - Acreage of hay cut at 2.0 million acres is the smallest since 1941. Total production at 2.5 million tons was the lowest since 1952. Alfalfa hay output was above average and clover-timothy mixtures were a little less than usual, but production of wild hay, grain and other hay were considerably below average and reflected the unfavorable growing conditions on dry land.

Courtesy of Statistical
Reporting Service, USDA

Table 1. Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations in 1961

Item	Number
Section A. Day-Haul Activities	
Operated by State agency:	
a Day-haul points	0
b Towns with day-haul points	0
c Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	0
d Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	0
Established (unsupervised by State agency:)	
a Day-haul points	3
b Towns with day-haul points	3
c Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	60
d Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	60
Section B. Services to School-age youth	
Towns in which separate school-age youth programs are operated	0
Day-haul points operated separately for school age youth	0
a Sum of school-age youth workers transported on peak day in each town	0
Day-haul points established by State agency for school-age youth	0
Supervised camps operated for school-age farm workers	0
a Placements in camp	0
Placements of school-age youth in supervised live-in farm homes	0
Section C. Services to other special groups	
Services rendered to Indians by local offices or itinerant points on reservations:	
a Placements	2314
b Applicant holding acceptances	151
Other placements of reservation Indians	918
Puerto Ricans brought into State under work contract	0
Section D. Special Services to employers	
Employers receiving combine services:	
a From out-of-area	88
b From out-of-State	216
Employers receiving cotton-harvesting-machine services:	
a From out-of-area	0
b From out-of-State	0
Food processing employers receiving placement services	7
Section E. Other special services	
Local offices which held farm clinics	0
Days on which farm clinics were held	0
Issues of farm labor bulletins published	38
a Copies distributed	10,400
State agency's work guides distributed	500
a Within reporting State	250
b To other States	250
Local offices participating in formal community service programs	0
Volunteer farm placement representatives	178

State M O N T A N A

Table 4. Interstate Agricultural Migrant Activities in 1961

Section A. Migrant contacts			Section B. Individuals represented	
Type	By reporting State	With reporting State's residents	Age and Sex	In Sec. A. Col. III
I	II	III	I	II
Total.....	309	0	2. Total.....	0
a. Crew Leaders.	88	0	a. Male, 16 & over.....	0
b. Family heads.	221	0	b. Female, 16 & over...	0
c. Other.....	0	0	c. Under 16.....	0

Section C. Worker Characteristics		Section D. Services rendered	
Type	Number	Type	Number
I	II	I	II
		6. Total.....	309
		a. Schedules by ES.....	121
Families.....	453	b. Requests for action.	0
Unattached males.....	190	c. Other services.....	0
Unattached females.....	53	d. Validations.....	173
		e. Information only....	15

Section E. Summary of Migratory Movement by State

Home State		Last State In		Next State In	
State	Workers	State	Workers	State	Workers
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Total.....	2178	Total....	2178	Total....	2178
Texas.....	2178	Texas....	1873	Wisconsin	810
		Oregon...	253	Texas....	365
		Washington	25	Michigan.	348
		Idaho....	22	Colorado.	240
		Utah.....	5	Oregon...	175
				Idaho....	83
				Ohio.....	35
				Illinois.	30
				California	20
				Kansas...	18
				Utah.....	16
				Iowa.....	15
				Indiana..	13
				Oklahoma.	7
				Washington	3

. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
au of Employment Security
ES-225--Table 5 (1/59)

Budget Bureau No. 44-R779.7

State M O N T A N A

Table 5. Interstate Seasonal Agricultural Clearance Activties in 1961

Item	Orders		Openings	
	Extended (Sec. A) received (Sec. B)	Filled	Extended (Sec. A) received (Sec. B)	Filled
I	II	III	IV	V
Section A. Reporting State as Order-Holding State				
Reporting State, total.....	4	1	5417	2178
Applicant-holding States involved:				
	4	1	5417	2178
Section B. Reporting State as Applicant-Holding State				
Reporting State, total.....	29	10	7893	516
Order-Holding States involved:				
California	1	0	1	0
Colorado	5	1	2200	197
Illinois	1	1	850	11
Indiana	8	2	2100	46
Louisiana	1	0	1	0
Michigan	2	1	12	7
Ohio	1	1	7	4
North Dakota	1	0	1	0
South Dakota	1	0	300	0
Wisconsin	4	4	2100	251
Wyoming	4	0	321	0

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
ES225--Worksheet A (10/58)

Budget Bureau No. 44-R779.6
State M O N T A N A
Year 1961

Worksheet A. Day-haul activities, by town

/ / 1. At points operated by State agency

/X/ 2. At points established (unsupervised) by State agency

Towns	Number of day-haul points		Number of workers transported		
				Peak day	
	Total	School-age youth	Average day	Total	School-age youth
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Hardin	1	1	20	20	20
Miles City	1	1	20	20	20
Sidney	1	1	20	20	20

Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 633
TWX HL 1931

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
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WHEAT HARVEST BULLETIN

July 17, 1961 Bulletin #1

UMMARY: Montana's wheat crop is estimated to be 59.1 million bushels, the smallest since 9[illegible]. The estimated production of spring and winter wheat is down 20 million bushels from the [illegible]cast made a month ago and is 23 percent below the crop actually harvested last year.

[illegible] winter wheat crop is expected to produce 38.8 million bushels, spring wheat 18.4 million [illegible]els and duram 1.8 million bushels. The all spring wheat crop would be the smallest since 9[illegible] and the winter wheat crop would be the smallest since 1956.

[illegible]t harvest in North Central and Triangle and North Central is about two weeks ahead of [illegible]nal. Winter wheat yields noted so far are on the optomistic side. In Carter and Fort Benton [illegible] yields run from 15 to 30 bushels per acre. No shortage of men or machines.

[illegible] spring wheat in eastern Montana has been severely damaged by drought and the current grass-[illegible]oper plague. Many fields will not be harvested.

[illegible]CENTRAL:

[illegible]RE - 416 First St. Phone 265-4366 -- Harvest of winter wheat spotty over area, about 5 to 10% [illegible]pleted. Weather hot and dry, ideal for harvest. Very few custom cutters in area. Most [illegible]mers doing own cutting and trading labor due to poor crops. Labor supply meeting demand. [illegible]es - grain haulers $10-15 p/d, B&R; combine operators $15-20 p/d, B&R. The few custom cutters [illegible] area getting $3.50 per acre in bin under seven miles, five cents mile over seven miles.

[illegible]LE AND WEST NORTH CENTRAL

[illegible] BANK - 116 East Main St. Phone WEst 8-2191 -- Harvest started this week in Glacier County. [illegible]e calls for combine operators at present, $14-18 p/d, B&R. No shortage of workers at this [illegible]e.

[illegible]AT FALLS - 1000 First Avenue South Phone GL-3-0351 -- Grain harvest in full progress in Carter [illegible] Fort Benton area. Yields running from 15-25 and 30 bushels per acre. Harvest starting in [illegible]aldine area, cutting also started on a limited scale in Power area. At present experiencing [illegible]ly shortage of combine operators only. Supply of custom cutting machines meeting demand. [illegible]es $15 p/d on truck, $20 p/d on combines. Above with B&R. Cutting rate running $3-3.50 per [illegible]e with 5¢ per bushel over 20. No delays in cutting due to weather conditions or labor short-[illegible]s.

[illegible]LBY - 402 First St. South Phone HEmlock 4-5575 -- Harvest started in East Liberty County. Some [illegible]l for combine operators and truck drivers. Expect orders for harvest workers to increase by [illegible]nesday of this week. Wages, combine operators, $16-18 p/d, B&R. Truck drivers, $12-14 p/d, [illegible]. Expect shortage of men by end of week.

[illegible]CENTRAL

[illegible]LINGS - 624 North 24th St. Phone AL-2-5631 -- A few combines entered the fields over the week-[illegible]. No significant activity is expected before Friday. A few combine operators at $15-16 p/d, [illegible] and truck drivers at $10 p/d, B&R have been referred. Cutting rates have not yet been [illegible]ablished as no custom work is underway today.

[illegible]ISTOWN - 324 West Broadway Phone KEystone 8-3286 -- Winter wheat turning exceptionally fast. [illegible]vest now expected to get underway about July 22nd in some areas. Wheat yield will be about [illegible] of a normal year. Wages $15-18 p/d, B&R for combine operators, and $10-12 p/d for truck [illegible]vers plus B&R.

H EAST

LASGOW - 221 Fifth St. South Phone ACademy 8-9369 -- Harvest of barley just beginning in South alley area. Yields are reported from 5-20 bushels per acre. No wheat ready to cut. Custom ombine rates $3.00 per acre with little demand for machines. Wages $10-12 p/d. No shortage of en or machines at present but expect shortage of qualified combine operators by next week.

OLF POINT - 314 Main St. Phone 237 -- Some harvesting of winter wheat and barley along no. 2 ighway. Yield ranging from 5-10 bushels per acre. Harvest in Central portion of Roosevelt ounty will not begin for next two weeks. Labor supply adequate at present. Very little demand xpected for custom combines. Wages for grain hauling $9-10 p/d, $12-15 p/d for combiners.

CENTRAL

LENDIVE - 211 South Kendrick Phone EMpire 5-3611 -- Harvesting of winter wheat started in Bloom ield-Intake area and is 20% complete. Yields from 7 to 20 bushels. No shortage of men or mach nes.

ILES CITY - 12 North Tenth St. Phone 232-1316 -- No small grain harvesting activity.

IDNEY - 120 South Central Phone 36 -- Small grain harvest started on limited scale. Drought an rasshoppers have damaged crop lands extensively and many fields will not be harvested. No short ge of men or machines.

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Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 633
TWX HL 1931

August 2, 1961 Number 17

This bulletin is for information and does not constitute a job order. Call, wire or write before referral.

UMMARY: Soil moisture is still short throughout the State. Severe hailstorms damaged cropsir , Toole, Liberty, Hill, Teton, Richland and Custer Counties. Combining winter wheat has the halfway mark and yields are generally fair to good. Cutting of spring wheat is about rth done. Yields east of the divide are only poor to fair. Harvesting of other grains is f last year. A considerable amount of grain will be cut for hay. Prospects for sugar beets er irrigated crops remain favorable although the supply of irrigation water is becoming . Range feed is inadequate and has necessitated movement of livestock to other areas where s more feed and has caused considerable early marketings. Grasshoppers have damaged crops ern Montana, especially in Dawson County.

SERN

A: Activities - haying, irrigating and general ranch work. No shortages. Demand for loose kers has been good and possibility of shortages is likely this week. Weather, hot and dry.
Haying main activity, weather excellent. Surplus and demand near balance. Haying will e for next 2 weeks. Stacker's paid $10 to $12 p/d B&R.
Activities are irrigating, sheep herding, fencing, and haying. Demand for irrigators, ranch c and female ranch cook, $6 to $7 p/d plus B&R. Weather hot and dry.

N: Farm activities are haying, sour cherry picking for the cannery. Adequate pickers cur- available. Wages $1 hr for haying and 2¢ lb. for cherry picking. Main crop cherries will hursday.
Activities are haying, irrigating, and herding. Short 1 herder at $200 p/m. Weather hot . Supply of workers meeting demands. Wages range from $7 to $10 p/d plus B&R.

LL: Labor supply meeting demand. Wages $1 to $2 p/h. Activities grain harvest, irrigating, fallowing and haying. Weather hot and dry. No change in activities expected next 2 weeks.

A: Present activity haying, general ranch work, irrigating. Wages same. Haying activities down considerably. Local supply of hay hands adequate. Little change expected next 2 weeks. hot and clear.
Cherry harvest is completed. Harvesting of small grains, cutting second crop alfalfa and ing hay and pastures major activity. Roguing of certified spuds other activity. Labor d. Wages unchanged.

N FALLS: Winter and spring wheat harvest progressing rapidly as warm dry weather continues. harvest should also start this week, but oats ripening is spotty. Second cutting of alfalfa arted. Labor supply adequate.

H CENTRAL

S: Activities are grain harvest, haying and irrigating. No shortages. Surplus of single al farmhands and harvest hands. Harvest 75% complete. No need for additional machines. continues hot and dry. Canning corn harvest to start in 10 to 14 days.

l: Activities are combining, haying, irrigating and summer fallowing. Second cutting of hay plete. Combining 10% complete. Short 1 single general farmhand, wages $175 p/m B&R. hot and dry. Harvest uninterrupted.

TOWN: Weather hot and dry with occasional showers. Harvesting of winter wheat and summer ving main activities. Wages remain same. Local labor supply adequate.
GSTON: NO REPORT

STERN
IVE: Main activities haying, summer fallowing, irrigating and cultivating of sugar beets and . Small grain harvest about 95% completed. Supply of labor meeting demand.
CITY: Harvest of grain on dry land completed. Harvesting of grain on irrigated farms 75% eted. No demand for machines or men.
Y: Grain harvest has been temporarily held up due to rain showers. 50% of irrigated grain een placed in windrows with 10% harvested. Supply of labor meeting demand.

RTH CENTRAL
ANK: Hail damage to estimated 50,000 acres in Glacier County. Activities are haying, small harvest, fencing and summer fallowing. Labor supply exceeding demand. Wages same.
OW: Scattered local showers hampering harvest activity in some areas. Some barley being cut ylor area, with wheat harvest expected to begin next week. Early reports indicate Barley s from 4 to 10 bushels per acre. No demand for custom machines. Some demand for experienced ne operators.
FALLS: Grain harvest activities completed in Great Falls and Fort Benton area. Harvesting nter wheat approximately 90% completed in Dutton area and spring grains 70% complete. Some for tractor operators for summer fallowing. No demand for hay hands for second cutting. ts of hail damages up to 50% in some areas north of Great Falls. Surplus of harvest and ar farm hands.
: Activities are summer fallowing, rock picking, small grain harvest. Extensive hail damage y to remaining crops in some sections of Hill and Blaine Counties. Both hay and grain damage ted. Total damage not known. Labor supply meeting demand.
Y: Harvesting of winter wheat 75% completed. Cutting of barley and spring wheat expected to first of next week. Yields are light due to lack of moisture and hail damage. Labor supply ate with wages $10-$15 for truck drivers, $15-$20 for combine operators. Some demand for ands.
POINT: Major activities harvesting and summer fallowing. Harvest progressing slowly due to rs. Demand for workers and machines light. Wages $10-$12 per day for truck drivers and $15- er day for combine operators.

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